

(b) Interest paid by the Company in the above period

(Rs. Lakhs)

Particulars	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Prov.)
Total Interest	21,163	29,940	41,429	51,557	51,459
Interest charged to Profit & Loss ac	16,293	20,417	25,957	26,187	38,755

(c) Present Reserves & Surplus

(Rs. Lakhs)

Particulars	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Prov.)
Reserves & surplus	224,217	264,431	277,921	278,127	278,354

Payment of subsidy to fertilizer companies

1411. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how much amount has been spent during the last two years on payment of subsidy to Fertilizer Companies; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to scrap this subsidy and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a)

The total amount of subsidy on indigenous urea paid to the fertilizer companies during the last two years is as follows:

Period	Amount of subsidy paid to indigenous urea manufacturing units (Rs. in crores)
1998-99	7473.00
1999-2000	8670.00

(b) Keeping in tune with the policy of economic liberalisation and reforms, all other fertilizers except urea have already been freed from price, movement and distribution control. The Government intends to move towards a de-regulatory regime in fertilizer sector in a phased manner after taking into account its fiscal capacity on the one hand and simultaneously making available fertilizers to the farmers at a reasonable price.

White paper on sick fertilizer units

1412. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to publish a WHITE PAPER on sick fertilizer units, simultaneously announcing a policy on 'brownfield' projects for the private sector, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 18th July, 2000;

(b) what are the details thereof, indicating Government's policy in clear terms, on "Indian Fertilizers Industry-vision for this new millennium"; and

(c) what is the possibility of setting up joint ventures pertaining to fertilizer projects, preferably close to site of natural gas, as proposed by a high-powered Committee set up by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) A Seminar entitled "Indian Fertilizer Industry—Vision for the New Millenium" was organised in New Delhi on July 17, 2000 to discuss the draft outline of long-term fertilizer policy which, *inter*